Concordia University Pagan Society April 2001

Tidings

How to Reach Us

At Our Office

7141 Sherbrooke St. West
Room SC 03-3 (Loyola)

Office Hours
Every Thursday 6:00pm – 9:00pm
(Or by appointment)

By Phone

(514) 848-7441 Leave a message

By E-Mail

cups@fastmail.ca

By Mail

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Editorial

by Tygerwyld

I would like to start on a more serious note this month. It seems that no one has come forward to put their name in as a potential candidate for the CUPS elections. Should no one present themselves as CUPS officers, the club will cease to exist as of next year. For more information, see our Bulletins section or bring it up at the next meeting.

The CUPS website is finally up & running! All credit goes to our wonderful web-mistress for putting the needed effort into this undertaking. Look us up at: http://www.seasonaljoys.com/cups/

The "Design a New Logo for CUPS" contest is still going on but it seems that no new entries have been submitted. I am sure that a few of our readers are more than capable, so why not send one in today! Submissions on paper can be dropped off at one of the meetings, rituals or events while electronic submissions should be sent as an attachment to the CUPS email address.

Any commentary regarding Tidings may be left at the CUPS office or sent to cups@fastmail.ca.

Blessings to all!

Meet CUPS

Come join CUPS at its monthly General Meetings. We will hold discussions on a variety of topics of interest to Pagan folk. Come out and contribute or just listen. Suggest a topic for an upcoming meeting!

Next meeting:

Time:
Friday, April 27 at 7:00pm

Place:
Campus Ministry (Room Z-105)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)
Please call (514) 848-7441 for info.

We will be going over the events planned for the month of May, as well as taking suggestions for upcoming events or volunteers to lead upcoming Sabbats or Esbats.

Bulletins

* Join us at cupagans@yahoogroups.com (an electronic mailing list setup for CUPS). It's a great place to receive the latest news about CUPS and to get into some very lively discussions.

To subscribe, send a message to:
cupagans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to:
cupagans-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
To post a message, send the email to:
cupagans@yahoogroups.com

Bulletins (cont.)

* The Montreal Pagan Resource Centre provides a reading-only library, for pagans and non-pagans alike, to consult. A pot of coffee and tea is always available, as is contact information about professionals and artisans within the city. The Centre is a meeting place for all traditions within the pagan community of Montreal, a place for teaching, sharing and learning.
Further information, events schedules & volunteer forms available online at http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com.
Location: 1928 St. Catherine Street West
E-mail: mprc@total.net

* Each month, the Montreal Grove hosts public full moon rituals, as well as a public Sabbat ritual.
Details can be found on their web site at http://www.cam.org/~lokigui/

* CUPS will be holding its annual elections at the end of the summer. Nominations are now open for the posts of President, Vice-President, Scribe (Secretary) & Purse Warden (Treasurer). If you would like to run for any of these offices, please leave a message at the CUPS office or send an e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca.

Executive officers must be Concordia undergraduate students (part-time or full-time) of the 2001-2002 school year.

Nominees should prepare a few words about themselves and why they are running, to be delivered at the general meeting.

About Tidings

Tidings is a free newsletter published by the Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS) on the last week of each month.

Announcements of interest to the Pagan community will be printed free of charge.

Submissions for upcoming issues may be made by e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca, in TEXT format, or to our postal address. Bear in mind that our publication is black & white.

The deadline for any submissions is 7 days before our monthly General Meeting.

April Daze

Within this section of the newsletter will be found various tidbits of information regarding the month that we're in that should appeal to one and all. Please let us know what you think of it.

April, the fourth month of the current Gregorian calendar and the second month of Spring's rule, derives its name from Aprilus, the Latin name for the ancient Greek love-goddess Aphrodite. Other reference sources give aperire, the Latin word meaning "to open," as the origination of the month's name.
The traditional birthstone amulet of April is the diamond, and the daisy and the sweet pea are the month's traditional flowers.
April is shared by the astrological signs of Aries the Ram and Taurus the Bull, and is sacred to the following deities: Aphrodite, Artemis, Astarte, Erzulie, Terra, Venus, and Ying-Hua.

April 1st April Fool's Day

The month of Venus begins with April Fool's Day (also known as All Fools' Day), an occasion for playing practical jokes on friends, family, and coworkers. This custom dates back to olden times, when inmates of insane asylums were allowed out in the streets for one day each year for the sadistic amusement of those who were (supposedly) normal.

April 3rd

In Iran, on the thirteenth day of their New Year, special bowls containing sprouted seeds are traditionally cast into the rivers as offerings in the belief that the bad luck of the previous year will be carried away.
The goddess Persephone's annual return from the Underworld, allowing the Earth to bloom again, was celebrated every year on this date by the ancient Romans.

April 4th

The annual festival of Cybele, the Megalesia, was celebrated on this date in ancient Rome. She was a goddess of fertility whose cult originated in Phrygia. Her male attendants were self-castrated priests and worship of her was wild and orgiastic.

April 5th Festival of Kuan Yin

Every year on this day, Kuan Yin (the powerful Chinese goddess of healing, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness) is invoked for protection, love, mercy, and wisdom. Offerings of incense and violet-colored candles are placed on her altar, along with rolled-up pieces of rice paper upon which various wishes have been written.

April 10th

According to ancient Celtic folklore, the Sun dances each year on this day. In many parts of Ireland, people arise at the first light of dawn to watch the Sun "dance" in a shimmering bowl of water.
Bau, the Goddess Mother of Ea, was honored each year on this day in ancient Babylonia with a sacred religious festival called The Day of Bau.

April 11th

On this day each year, cross-inscribed loaves of bread are traditionally baked in honor of the Roman goddess Diana.
In Greece, branches of evergreen, myrtle, or bay were worn by children on this day for protection against the venomous evil eye.
In Armenia, the goddess Anahit is honored annually on this day with a sacred festival. She is a deity of both love and lunar power who dwells within the silver light of the Moon.

April 12th

The Cerealia, an annual festival of the goddess Ceres, was celebrated by the ancient Romans in order to secure the fertility of the crops. The sacred rites of Ceres began on this date and were observed for eight consecutive days.
In Taiwan, the goddess who presides over birth (Chu-Si-Niu) is honored annually on this day with a religious festival. Pregnant women go to temples dedicated to her in order to receive blessings for their unborn children.

April 13th

On this day, an annual festival of water is celebrated by Buddhists in Thailand. Buddha statues are ritually bathed and the water is thrown on the faithful to purify and "wash away" the evil spirits of the previous year. The festival lasts for three consecutive days.

April 15th

In ancient Rome, the earth-goddess Tellus (or Tellus Mater) was honored annually on this day. A pregnant cow was traditionally sacrificed at her sacred festival and the unborn calf burned in a bonfire to ensure the fertility of the crops.
Also on this day, the Festival of the Iron Phallus (Kanamara Matsuri) is celebrated annually in Kawasaki City, Japan. The ancient Japanese deities associated with sexuality and human reproduction give their sacred blessings and encouragement, especially to couples who wed late in life or to men who suffer from declining potency.

April 16th

Every year on this day, the god Apollo was worshipped and supplicated by his faithful cult in ancient Greece. An annual festival called the Hiketeria was celebrated in his honor.
On this date in the year 1946, Pagan author Margot Adler was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her Wiccan handfasting on June 19,1988 was the first Neo-Pagan Wedding to appear in the New York Times' society pages.

April 18th

The Festival of Rama-Navami is celebrated every year on this date at sacred shrines throughout India. It honors both the great Hindu god Rama (the seventh incarnation of Vishnu) and the goddess Sita.

April 20th

On this date (approximately) the Sun enters the astrological sign of Taurus. Persons born under the sign of the Bull are said to be stable, reliable, patient, and often stubborn. Taurus is an earth sign and is ruled by the planet Venus.

April 24th Saint Mark's Eve

According to folklore of the English countryside, the ghosts of all men, women, and children destined to pass away in the next year can be seen floating by on this night by any person brave enough to spend the night awake on the front porch of a church. However, if a person was unfortunate enough to fall asleep during the vigil or if he failed to repeat it annually for the remainder of his life, he would never wake up the next morning.

April 28th

In ancient Rome, the beautiful goddess Flora was honored annually on this date. She was a fertility and vegetation goddess of Springtime and flowering plants. Her three-day festival, the Floralia, marked the beginning of the growing season.

April 29th Pagan Tree Day

On this day, plant a tree dedicated to your favorite goddess or god. For instance: plant a myrtle tree in honor of Venus and Aphrodite; an oak for Demeter, Diana, and Hera; a pine for Attis, Cybele, and Pan; a rowan tree for all moon goddesses; a sycamore for all Egyptian gods and goddesses; a willow for Artemis, Brigid, and Persephone; a yew for Hecate and Saturn; etc.

April 30th

In Germany, Walpurgisnacht begins at sunrise on this date and ends at sunrise on the first day of May (May Day). Birch boughs are placed on all doors and windows to protect the home from evil spirits and sorcery. Traditional bonfires and torches of rosemary and juniper are lit, and according to legend, Witches can be seen riding across the sky on broomsticks on this dark and magickal night.
On this date in the year 1988, The English Witch Alexander Sanders (also known as the King of the Witches) died of lung cancer. He was gifted with psychic powers, and was the founder of the Alexandrian tradition of Wicca.